(b) the present status and implementation of such proposals alongwith the budgetary provisions made by Government for the aforesaid purpose during the Ninth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) and (b) Government of India has announced a new industrial policy for the North-Eastern Region on 24th December, 1997. All the major components of the policy have been notified. Ministry of Commerce & Industry does not formulate district-wise proposals.

This department, however, gives approval to the growth centre project proposals of the States. Nine growth centres have been planned for the North-Eastern Region. Eight of them have already been approved. The project report for the remaining one growth centre, proposed at Chayagaon, is awaited from the Government of Assam.

The district wise details of the Growth Centres, Central releases between 1994-95 and 1998-99 are given below:

| Name of the Growth Centre | State | District | Central Releases |
|---|---|---|---|
| Chariduar | Assam | Sonitpur | Rs. 50.00 lakh |
| Matia | Assam | Goalpara | Rs. 50.00 lakh |
| Niklok Ngorlung | Arunachal Pradesh | East Siang | Rs. 98.00 lakh |
| Lamlai-Napet | Manipur | Imphal East | Rs. 50.00 lakh |
| Luangmual | Mizoram | Aizwal | Rs. 50.00 lakh |
| Mendi Pathar | Meghalaya | East Garo Hills | Rs. 50.00 lakh |
| Ganesh Nagar | Nagaland | Dimapur | Rs. 500.00 lakh |

The Ninth Plan allocation for the scheme is Rs. 317 crore for the entire country.

**India's share in the International Trade**

†1122. SHRI JANESHWAR MISRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that share of India in the international trade is nominal; and

†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, what action is being taken by Government to promote the export from India?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A number of steps have been taken to promote exports which include reduction in transaction cost through decentralisation and simplification of procedures and various other measures as enumerated in the Exim Policy. Steps have also been taken to promote exports through multilateral and bilateral initiatives, identification of thrust sectors and focus regions.

**Protection of interests of Developing Countries at WTO Conference**

1123. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any initiative to protect the interest of developing countries in the WTO Conference at Seattle;

(b) if so, what are the steps taken and the details thereof;

(c) the initiative taken to create a national consensus on the trade and related issues pertaining to India; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Government have been highlighting the problems of the existing asymmetries and inequities in several of the WTO Agreements, and the non-realization of expected benefits from Agreements such as textiles and agriculture by the developing countries in general and India in particular. India has also effectively articulated the manner in which the special and differential treatment provisions of the WTO Agreements have remained virtually inoperative and how, even in areas where developing countries acquire competitiveness, anti-dumping or anti-subsidies investigations are initiated in increasing numbers by the developed countries to deny them market access.